

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph at page 3, line 23 to page 4, line 12 with the following:

---

Q1 A technique for stabilizing the intensity of the laser light with which the sample is irradiated is disclosed, for example, in Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI Publication Nos. 11-231222 and 2000-206415. In the Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI Publication No. 11-231222, after the laser lights of a plurality of wavelengths are combined, some of the laser lights are split by a beam splitter. Subsequently, a changeable filter selects the wavelength, and an optical detector (first detection element) receives the laser light of the selected wavelength. Moreover, a laser output or a laser intensity is controlled based on a detection signal of the laser light intensity. It is described that the laser intensity is controlled, for example, by an acousto-optical element (e.g., an acousto-optical tunable filter (AOTF)) disposed between the laser and the optical fiber.

---